

KERREY), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. THOMPSON), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 200, a resolution designating the week of February 14-20 as "National Biotechnology Week."

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 63—CONDEMNING THE ASSASSINATION OF ARMENIAN PRIME MINISTER VAZGEN SARGSIAN AND OTHER OFFICIALS OF THE ARMENIAN GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS IN MOURNING THIS TRAGIC LOSS OF THE DULY ELECTED LEADERSHIP OF ARMENIA**

Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. ENZI, Mr. KERRY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 63

Whereas on October 27, 1999, several armed individuals broke into Armenia's Parliament and assassinated the Prime Minister of Armenia, Vazgen Sargsian, the Chairman of the Armenian Parliament, Karen Demirchian, the Deputy Chairman of the Armenian Parliament, Yuri Bakhshian, the Minister of Operative Issues, Leonard Petrossian, and other members of the Armenian Government;

Whereas Armenia is working toward democracy, the rule of law, and a viable free market economy since obtaining its freedom from Soviet rule in 1991; and

Whereas all nations of the world mourn the loss suffered by Armenia on October 27, 1999: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) deplores the slaying of the Prime Minister of Armenia, Vazgen Sargsian, the Chairman of the Armenian Parliament, Karen Demirchian, the Deputy Chairman of the Armenian Parliament, Yuri Bakhshian, the Minister of Operative Issues, Leonard Petrossian, and other members of the Armenian Government struck down in this violent attack;

(2) strongly shares the determination of the Armenian people that the perpetrators of these vile acts will be swiftly brought to justice so that Armenia may demonstrate its resolute opposition to acts of terror;

(3) commends the efforts of the late Prime Minister and the Armenian Government for their commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and for supporting free market movements internationally; and

(4) continues to cherish the strong friendship between Armenia and the United States.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to express my deepest condolences to the family of the slain Prime Minister of Armenia, Vazgen Sargsian, and the other assassinated leaders of the Armenian Parliament who were tragically killed in the brutal attack on the Armenian Parliament on October 27, 1999. My thoughts and prayers

are also with the people of Armenia and the Armenian community around the world and in the United States.

The tragic turn of events that took place earlier this week should not be viewed as an impediment to the ongoing positive trends the world has seen in Armenia. Indeed, Armenia has proven its commitment to a democratic future in its recent elections which were deemed free and fair by international election monitors. They have also made substantial progress on the peace process regarding Nagorno Karabakh.

The United States is enjoying a growing and mutually beneficial relationship with Armenia. Our focus should be on our continued support of the Armenian people. We must not allow the recent terrorist activity to eschew our dedication in helping Armenia achieve the highest form of freedom, liberty, and opportunity. To reaffirm our commitment to the progress embodied by the fallen Armenian patriots not only should be our goal, but our duty as a global leader.

For this reason, I ask to submit a resolution that condemns the terrorist activities that took the lives of the Armenian Prime Minister, Vazgen Sargsian, and other leaders of the Armenian Parliament, and pledges continued alliance between our two countries. Our thoughts are with the families, friends and loved ones of those affected by this tragedy, and we send our hope that those who perpetrated this horrible act will be brought to justice.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 64—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING CONTINUED USE OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY TRAINING RANGE ON THE ISLAND OF VIEQUES IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO**

Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. KYL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON. RES. 64

Whereas the success or failure of the Nation's Armed Forces when sent into combat and the risk of loss of life, both to United States military personnel and to civilians, are a direct function of the degree of training received by members of the Armed Forces before combat;

Whereas from World War II through the most recent crisis in Kosovo the Nation's military has been able to meet the call to arms due to training such as that afforded at the United States Navy training range on the island of Vieques in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

Whereas in April 1999, following an accident at that training range that resulted in the death of a Navy civilian employee, training activities at that range were suspended by direction of the Secretary of the Navy pending a safety review;

Whereas officials of the Department of Defense have testified before congressional

committees that the Vieques training range is the only range along the Atlantic seaboard that allows critical combined arms live fire training that includes the coordinated use of naval surface fire support training, Navy/Marine amphibious combined arms training, Carrier Battle Group strike training and high altitude tactics, and subsurface training;

Whereas officials of the Department of Defense have testified before congressional committees that the safe conduct of operations on the island of Vieques has been and will remain the primary concern of the Department of the Navy and that the recent death of the civilian Navy employee on the range was the first civilian death on the range since its purchase in 1941;

Whereas the John F. Kennedy carrier battle group, which was unable to continue training at Vieques after the April accident, deployed in September 1999 in degraded readiness condition and the Dwight D. Eisenhower carrier battle group, which is scheduled to deploy in the spring of 2000, will be forced to deploy in a significantly degraded readiness condition if not allowed to conduct training activities at the Vieques training range before departing on that deployment;

Whereas the suspension of training activities at the Vieques training range has resulted in a loss of critical combat training that is essential to the Nation's Navy and Marine forces; and

Whereas, given that recently deploying Navy and Marine Corps battle groups have been sent directly into combat operations in Kosovo and Iraq, thereby placing service personnel immediately in harm's way, it would be unthinkable to knowingly deploy members of the Armed Forces in the future without this essential training, since to do so would place American lives, including the lives of members of the Armed Forces from Puerto Rico, at high risk: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—*

(1) calls upon the Secretary of the Navy and the Attorney General of the United States to promptly ensure that the Federal property located at the Vieques training range in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is safe and secure and, once the range is safe and secure, for the Secretary of the Navy to resume critical live fire training at that range;

(2) calls upon the President, as Commander-in-Chief, to ensure that United States forces deploy with 100 percent of the combat qualifications needed to meet national security requirements;

(3) strongly urges the Department of Defense and the Government of Puerto Rico to reestablish a mutually supportive relationship, to resolve the issues between the Department of the Navy and the people of Puerto Rico, and to implement a program that addresses the economic and social needs and safety concerns of the residents of Vieques and the citizens of Puerto Rico; and

(4) recognizes the significant contribution by the residents of Vieques and the citizens of Puerto Rico to the Nation's defense.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 209—EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER INTERFERENCE WITH FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND THE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIAL AND ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS IN PERU**

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. DODD, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred